

VZCZCXRO4507
PP RUEHFL RUEHNP
DE RUEHRO #1573/01 3591033
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 241033Z DEC 08
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1374
INFO RUEHZG/NATO EU COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHGB/AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD PRIORITY 0366
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 0909
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 0448
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 0831
RUEHLB/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY 0332
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY 0696
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH PRIORITY 0491
RUEHAD/AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY 0457
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN PRIORITY 9733
RUEHFL/AMCONSUL FLORENCE PRIORITY 3358
RUEHNP/AMCONSUL NAPLES PRIORITY 3524
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0942
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY 2985
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY
RHMFISS/HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RHMFISS/HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 ROME 001573

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/25/2018
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SUBJECT: GEN PETRAEUS DISCUSSES IRAQ, AFGHANISTAN WITH ITALIAN LEADERS

Classified By: Ambassador Ronald P. Spogli for Reasons 1.4 (B) and (D)

[1](#)1. (C) Summary: Italy's leaders warmly welcomed the December 9-10 visit of U.S. CENTCOM Commander, Gen. David Petraeus. In his meetings with F
Italy's Top Leaders Listen to Petraeus
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[1](#)2. (U) U.S. CENTCOM Commander Gen. David Petraeus met with Italy's top leaders during his December 9-10 visit to Rome. In addition to his meet
Afghanistan: U.S. Committing New Forces, Italy Mum
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[1](#)3. (C) Gen. Petraeus told Italian interlocutors that he had always expected Afghanistan to be ""the longest campaign of the long war."" He not
[1](#)4. (C) None of the Italian interlocutors responded directly to Petraeus on increasing Italy's contribution. Foreign Minister Frattini noted th
[1](#)5. (C) Frattini noted that he had received a very discouraging report from the Italian UN Ambassador on the Security Council trip to Afghanist
Pakistan: Fundamentalists ""Existential Threat""
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[1](#)6. (C) Petraeus characterized the Mumbai attacks as a ""9/11 moment"" for Pakistan. The Zardari government now must contend with fact that the
G-8 Conference on Pakistan-Afghanistan
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[1](#)7. (C) Frattini highlighted the Italian proposal to host a ministerial-level conference on stabilizing the Afghanistan-Pakistan border region
Iraq: Learning the Right Lessons
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[1](#)8. (U) Gen. Petraeus reported that in Iraq the full spectrum surge - troops plus civilian capabilities - had resulted in an over 90 per cent c
Iran: Changing the Regional Equation
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[1](#)9. (C) Prime Minister Berlusconi told Petraeus that Italy seeks to maintain good relations with most countries so that it can serve as an inte
Syria: Undermining Iranian Influence
- - - - -

[1](#)10. (C) Petraeus argued that wresting Syria from Iran's influence was critical to an enduring solution in Lebanon and also to modifying Iranis
Lebanon: Good Job on Sensitive Mission, but significant problems remain
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[1](#)11. (U) On Lebanon, Petraeus thanked the Italians for their leadership of UNIFIL and praised the Italian commander, General Graziano, for runn
Looking for More Troops
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[1](#)12. (C) Chief of Defense Camporini told Petraeus that it was time to reexamine commitments in Kosovo. While the issues are not settled there,
Comment
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[1](#)13. (C) Italy's leadership was mostly in listening mode, eagerly looking for indications of any change of direction by the incoming Administr
[1](#)14. (C) Petraeus' Italian military interlocutors, however, gave clear indications that they feel their troop levels in Afghanistan are too low
[1](#)15. (U) General Petraeus has cleared this message.
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